

# ERIE-NIAGARA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

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## Memorandum

**To: ENRP Co-Chairs Bradley Erck & Barry Weinstein, MD**  
**From: Government Affairs Subcommittee Chair Peter McMahon**  
**Re: July & September 2002 meetings**  
**Date: October 4, 2002**

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The Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership's Government Affairs Subcommittee met July 8 and September 17, 2002 at Christino's at the Amherst Marriott. Present for the July meeting were subcommittee members McMahon, Ellis, Meal, Weinstein, and Sheffer. Present for the September meeting were subcommittee members McMahon, Ellis, Meal, and Weinstein.

### Electronic Permitting

Subcommittee Member Sheffer gave an update on electronic permitting. After two years of discussing the pilot under the leadership of Erie County's DEP, the project is now being turned over to the UB Institute for Local Governance and Regional Growth. The Institute submitted a proposal to Erie County to do the pilot by the end of the year. DEP now thinks that half of the cost could be borne by the state. While that money may not be available in the near term, Drew Eszak from DEP told Sheffer to proceed with the pilot. Essentially, the Institute is advancing the project on a good faith basis and without a formal contract. While the pilot would be completed by the end of 2002, in January to August of 2003, UB would then meet with municipalities for demonstrations and training. The estimated cost of the pilot is \$136,000. The timing is right, added Subcommittee Chair McMahon, as the new state building codes are just now being implemented.

### Communication with Municipalities

Following approval by the full ENRP, a brochure listing collaborative opportunities for municipalities went out in July. Feedback will be solicited at the two counties' local governments associations.

### Other Topics

Other topics discussed included the Framework for Regional Growth, the Economic Development Working Group, bike paths, and the Niagara County Who Does What? study.